

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States Department  
of Agriculture  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20250

# News Releases and other News Material

Number 6493

June 21 - June 25, 1993

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page

### STATEMENTS-

by Ellen Haas, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer  
Service for More Education on the New Food Label . . . . . 1

Joint Statement by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy  
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner  
Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D.  
on Reducing Pesticide Use and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture . . . . . 2

### NEWS RELEASES-

0506 U.S. To Donate Feed Wheat To Mongolia . . . . . 3  
0507 New Gene Switch Hikes A Plant's Ability To Resist Being Dinner For Worms . . . . . 3  
0510 USDA Announces 1993/94 Export Enhancement Package For Wheat . . . . . 4  
0511 Exercise Helps Improve People's Tolerance--To Blood Sugar . . . . . 6  
0512 U.S. To Donate Butteroil For Use In Mexico . . . . . 7  
0513 U.S. To Donate Butter For Use In Ukraine And Belarus . . . . . 7  
0514 AARC Center Announces Request For Proposals . . . . . 8  
0515 Michigan Firm Recalls Chicken Patties From Save-A-Lot Stores In 21 States . . . . . 8  
0519 April Food Stamp Participation Remains Near Record Levels . . . . . 9  
0520 Secretary Espy To Visit Midwestern States To Tour Rain-Soaked Farms . . . . . 9  
0493 Kentucky Retail Market And Owner Fined \$5000 Each For Meat Law Violations . . . . . 9

### PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS-

0509 USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices, Marketing Certificate  
Rates . . . . . 10  
0517 USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price And User Marketing Certificate  
Payment Rate For Upland Cotton . . . . . 10

### MEDIA ADVISORY-

0508 Agriculture Secretary Espy To Address Florida Hunger Symposium . . . . . 12

---

USDA news releases are available by fax the same day they are issued. For information on how to use USDA'S **Ag News F A X** service, use your fax machine's touchtone dialing to call (202) 690-3944. At the voice prompt, press 9 on the phone and then press the start button on your fax machine. Instructions for using the service will be faxed to you.

---

---

For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

---

# Statement

by Ellen Haas  
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services  
on the need for  
More Education on the New Food Label  
Washington, D.C.

June 21, 1993

When Congress passed the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act it was an important victory for consumers. It was an equally important victory for David Kessler at the FDA and Secretary Espy's new team at the United States Department of Agriculture.

The new law enables us to provide consumers with knowledge about exactly what they're eating. And knowledge is power.

But the new food label is only beneficial if consumers understand what they're reading. We can't just glue the new label to packages and walk away. We have to explain what it means and how to use it.

Nutrition education is one of my top priorities as the agriculture department's new Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services. It is not enough for us to help produce food, or even distribute it better. We need to go beyond and establish nutrition education programs that promote healthy eating. The new label can be a powerful tool in that effort and will empower consumers to make healthful choices for themselves and their families. The National Food Processors Association's effort illustrates how effectively that can be done.

With the clear evidence of the relationship between nutrition and health, empowering Americans to adopt eating habits that follow accepted dietary guidelines and the agriculture department's food pyramid is essential. Learning to read and use the new food label is a step toward that end. USDA and FDA have worked together on a joint campaign to educate consumers about the new labels.

An important component of this education campaign is the Food Labeling Education Information Center at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Md. We created the Center to encourage public- and private-sector organizations to exchange information about their food labeling education activities and to make it easier for them to find partners. The Center now has an extensive computer database which lists the activities and materials of consumer groups, industry associations and health associations as well as government and industry. For information on what others are doing, you can call, write or come by the center.

The private sector, too, has initiated labeling education efforts such as NFPA's which I would like to commend and encourage. Public Voice and Campbells Soup Co. have run a labeling education campaign called Smart Selections. Other organizations such as the American Heart Association and the American Dietetic Association also have programs to educate consumers. USDA's and FDA's efforts to reach all segments of the population--from rural America to the inner city--is enhanced by public-private partnerships.

NFPA's new "Label Facts for Healthful Eating" is the kind of educational material we hope to see more of as both the public and private sectors work to make the new label a tool for consumers to make informed food choices.

This is just the beginning. I look forward to the task ahead.

#

*(EDITORS: This statement was given by Assistant Secretary Haas June 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. during a news conference called by the National Food Processors Association.)*





**Joint Statement by  
Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy  
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner  
Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D.  
on  
REDUCING PESTICIDE USE AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

Washington, D.C., June 25, 1993

The Clinton Administration today announces its commitment to reducing the use of pesticides and to promote sustainable agriculture. This commitment will be implemented jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D., released the following statement:

"We stand behind the safety of our food supply and will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to maintain that safety based on the best available science. We stand firmly behind the dietary guidelines put forward by the Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1990, which state that fruits and vegetables form a vital part of a balanced, healthy diet, especially for children.

The Clinton Administration firmly believes it is the responsibility of government to look at every opportunity to improve the protection of public health. We plan to review and consider all of the recommendations made in the reports being issued.

The principles that will guide our legislative and regulatory proposals include the following:

The Clinton Administration is committed to reducing the risks to people and the environment that are associated with pesticides while ensuring the availability of cost-effective pest management tools for agriculture and other pesticides users.

We will intensify our effort to reduce the use of higher-risk pesticides and to promote integrated pest management, including biological and cultural control systems and other sustainable agricultural practices, under the leadership of the USDA.

We will work side by side with American farmers to help test and implement improved and safer methods of pest management already used by many farmers.

We will promote development of safer pesticides by reforming our regulatory program to encourage registration of safer pesticides and by providing incentives to pesticide manufacturers to develop safer pesticides for urban and agricultural uses.

We are committed to the goals of reducing risks associated with pesticides for all Americans and especially of ensuring appropriate protection for children.

We expect to use the upcoming reports of the National Academy of Sciences and the Environmental Working Group on children and pesticides as a basis for formulating the legislative and regulatory policies needed to put the Administration principles into effect.

In addition to these reports, the USDA will soon be releasing its Pesticide Data Program Report, which will provide additional data on pesticide residues in food.

To promote these goals, the Clinton Administration is committed to working on an expedited basis with Congress and all interested parties to develop a package of proposals that can command the widest possible support."



## News Releases-

Release No. 0506.93

Billy Cox (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

### U.S. TO DONATE FEED WHEAT TO MONGOLIA

WASHINGTON, June 21--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Puntsagiyn Jasray, prime minister of Mongolia, have signed an agreement under which the United States will donate 21,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Mongolia.

The \$4.5 million donation will be sold by the Mongolian government. Proceeds from the sales will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and to fund developmental activities in the Mongolian agricultural sector.

The supply period for the donation is U.S. fiscal 1993.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0507.93

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-2756

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

### NEW GENE SWITCH HIKES A PLANT'S ABILITY TO RESIST BEING DINNER FOR WORMS

WASHINGTON, June 22--A newly built plant gene, turned on by the munching of tomato hornworm caterpillars, protects plants from being eaten by the pests, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher.

"A big, ravenous hornworm can eat every leaf on a tomato stem in a single day," said Ann C. Smigocki of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. She is testing a way to turn the pest's appetite against it, by hooking a new on-off switch onto the gene that makes a key plant hormone.

With the new switch, the gene turns up a plant's natural defenses when its cells deliver a molecular "SOS" signal that they're being eaten, said Smigocki, who is a molecular geneticist with the ARS Plant Molecular Biology Laboratory, Beltsville, Md.

Hornworms, voracious pests of commercial and backyard tomatoes and many other crops, are bright green, sport a distinctive red horn and grow as long as three inches, Smigocki noted.

She hopes her approach will sharply reduce hornworm feeding in lab tests this summer on tomato plants with the rebuilt gene. That already happened in her earlier lab and greenhouse studies with tobacco plants used as experimental models, said Smigocki.

She thinks the new tactic simulates a plant's natural defense response more closely--and may use less of the plant's energy--than today's most commonly used biotechnology approach to insect control. In that approach, plants get a gene, originally from a bacterium, that continuously churns out a caterpillar-killing protein.

"Levels of this bacterial protein have to be very high, and the plant makes it even when no insects are present and feeding," said Smigocki. By contrast, she added, her approach overproduces the plant hormone, cytokinin, only when and--primarily--where insects are feeding.

"Similarly, the human immune system produces large amounts of disease-fighting antibodies--but only when it detects an invasion," she said.

Cytokinin's mechanisms of action are not well understood, she said, but it appears to influence more than 200 plant genes to coordinate plants' functions of making and storing food and growing to maturity.



"The modified tobacco plants overproduced cytokinin when they were being eaten. We found cytokinin levels about 70 times higher in the uneaten leaves. But we still have to find out why the hornworms ate so little. In lab tests, they only reached about half their normal size," said Smigocki.

The surge in cytokinin occurred because Smigocki attached a different promoter--a gene fragment that serves as an on-off switch--to a cytokinin gene. She transferred the new cytokinin gene to tobacco cells, from which she grew fertile plants that passed the gene to their seeds.

Smigocki recently applied for a patent on using this gene to retard insect feeding.

The gene's "wound-inducible promoter" is originally from a potato gene, she noted. Scientists speculate that the promoter turns on in response to signaling molecules. These are proteins that cells make when they are being mechanically destroyed--in this case, being mashed up by caterpillars.

One of the signaling molecules, systemin, was identified by a research group led by Dr. Clarence A. Ryan at the Institute of Biological Chemistry at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. Ryan supplied the promoter to Smigocki.

The stunted hornworms in Smigocki's tobacco tests had fed on gene-engineered whole plants, or on dime-size leaf disks or snipped-off whole leaves served in a lab dish.

She has also fed leaf tissue from the plants to green peach aphids. Only about one-third of the aphids matured and reproduced normally during an eight-day test. That's how long it took aphids fed on regular tobacco leaves to advance to adulthood from their immature, nymph stage, she said.

"Other insects may be similarly affected by this gene in tobacco, tomato or perhaps other crop plants such as soybeans and sugarbeets. To assess the potential of this approach, however, we must learn much more about the molecular mechanisms of cytokinin's action," Smigocki said.

#

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Contact for details Ann C. Smigocki, molecular geneticist, Plant Molecular Biology Laboratory, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-5848.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0510.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Billy Cox (202) 720-3448

## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1993/94 EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE FOR WHEAT**

WASHINGTON, June 24--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced a 32-million-metric-ton, multi-country package of initiatives under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program (EEP) to boost sales of U.S. wheat during the 1993/94 international marketing year.

"This EEP package is an important element in maintaining U.S. wheat exports in the face of subsidized competition by other exporters," Espy said. "It reflects the Clinton Administration's commitment to making sure U.S. farmers get a fair deal in foreign markets and a fair share of the world marketplace.

"It is also a clearcut example of the intention of this administration to implement a full and aggressive use of our export programs."

Espy said the EEP package announced today underscores USDA's commitment to improving U.S. farmers' income prospects. "We expect that this package will give a substantial boost to foreign demand for U.S. wheat, which will be a strengthening element in the U.S. price picture," Espy said.

The package of initiatives announced today, in metric tons, includes:

Country or Region	Thous. Metric Tons
Algeria	2,300
Bahrain/Kuwait	175
Baltics (3)	400
Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia	



Bangladesh	500
China	5,530
Cyprus	80
Eastern Europe (5) 1/ Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Slovakia	50
Egypt	3,500
Finland	135
Former Soviet Union (12) Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Georgia	4,000
Honduras	45
Jordan	500
Lebanon	200
Malta	65
Mexico	1,400
Morocco	2,900
Nicaragua	85
Norway	160
Pakistan	1,350
Philippines	1,650
Poland	700
Romania	700
Slovenia	200
South Africa	600
Sri Lanka	550
Sub-Saharan Africa (30) Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zaire, and Zimbabwe	2,700
Trinidad/Tobago	125
Tunisia	600
Turkey	300
Yemen	500

1/ For durum wheat sales only.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in all countries announced today through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. For the Baltics and the Former Soviet Union only, USDA also will allow sales to third-country buyers, which will permit third-country purchasers of goods exported from the Baltics and the Former Soviet Union to act as buyers for wheat destined for the Baltics and the Former Soviet Union. The export sales will be facilitated with cash bonus payments. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in these markets.

EEP invitations for each of the countries or regions will be issued. For more information, call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or L.T. McElvain, (202) 720-6211.



Release No. 0511.93  
Judy McBride (301) 344-2861  
Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

## EXERCISE HELPS IMPROVE PEOPLE'S TOLERANCE--TO BLOOD SUGAR

WASHINGTON, June 24--Regular aerobic exercise helps improve glucose tolerance in people who are at risk of developing diabetes even if they don't lose weight in the process, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study published in this month's American Journal of Physiology, Endocrinology Section.

The 12-week study of men and women over 50 at USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Boston, supports other research showing that exercise itself improves people's ability to respond to insulin so that glucose moves readily from the blood into body cells.

A glucose tolerance test measures a person's response to a large dose of glucose. In a normal response, blood glucose and insulin rise then return to baseline within two hours, explained study leader Virginia A. Hughes.

If insulin increases and glucose doesn't decrease to normal within two hours, she said, the person has insulin insensitivity and a tendency to diabetes.

"Weight loss produces the greatest improvement in people's insulin sensitivity," she said. "But it's very hard for most people to keep the weight off."

Hughes, a physiologist, said insulin sensitivity in the 18 volunteers improved 11 percent in this study compared to about 30 percent improvement seen in weight-loss studies. That means the men and women cleared 11 percent more glucose from their blood with the same amount of insulin at the end of the study than they did at the beginning, she explained.

"But insulin sensitivity would probably continue to improve if people maintained the exercise program," she added, noting that changes in body fat were not statistically significant. "You don't see substantial changes in body composition until about one year into an exercise program."

The volunteers exercised on a cycle ergometer at 50 to 75 percent of their maximum capacity four days a week but did not lose weight over the course of three months.

Although not diabetic, the volunteers had an abnormal response to glucose at the beginning of the study with a nine- to ten-fold higher risk of developing diabetes than people with normal glucose tolerance, Hughes said. Their blood glucose levels were normal after an overnight fast, but insulin levels were slightly elevated.

She said the study also demonstrated, for the first time in humans, one mechanism by which insulin sensitivity improved.

She and colleagues found that a protein that transports the glucose molecule into muscle cells--known as GLUT4--increased by 60 percent in the exercisers. The increase resulted from long-term exercise and not from a single session, she noted, indicating there's a chronic adaptation within the skeletal muscle.

The volunteers began the study with lower levels of glycogen--the storage form of glucose--in their muscle cells than elderly people with normal glucose tolerance. But the levels increased to normal after training, she said.

"This study indicates that regularly performed aerobic exercise not accompanied by a change in body composition, has a significant long-term effect in older individuals with impaired glucose tolerance," Hughes said. Unfortunately, people are seldom diagnosed before they become diabetic and many diabetics go undiagnosed.

Being obese puts people at risk of developing diabetes, Hughes said. Inactivity increases that risk as does having a family history of the disease or a tendency to gain weight at the waist rather than the hips.

Hughes, Maria A. Fiatarone and several others at ARS' Boston center collaborated in the study with researchers at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School's Division on Aging, both in Boston, and the University of Texas at Galveston.



**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For details, contact Virginia A. Hughes, Physiology Laboratory, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Agricultural Research Service, Boston, Mass. 02111. Telephone: (617) 556-3079.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0512.93

Billy Cox (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

#### **U.S. TO DONATE BUTTEROIL FOR USE IN MEXICO**

WASHINGTON, June 24--The United States will donate \$1.3 million worth of butteroil for use in Mexico, according to Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

International Partnership for Human Development, a private U.S. voluntary organization, will sell 500 metric tons of the commodity in the Mexican private sector. Proceeds from the sales will be used to support a wide range of projects including feeding programs, small agricultural projects and health and nutrition education programs. Another 250 metric tons will be distributed free to participants in these programs.

This donation is expected to help as many as 15,000 families in the most vulnerable groups within Mexico.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0513.93

Billy Cox (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

#### **U.S. TO DONATE BUTTER FOR USE IN UKRAINE AND BELARUS**

WASHINGTON, June 24--The United States will donate \$4.9 million worth of butter for distribution to needy citizens in Ukraine and Belarus, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network, a private U.S. voluntary organization, will distribute 2,000 tons of butter in Ukraine and 1,000 tons in Belarus.

The butter will be provided to hospitals, schools, orphanages, homes for the elderly and the mentally handicapped. Butter also will be delivered directly to the elderly, the homebound and people unable to stand in the food lines due to handicaps.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by FAS.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆



Release No. 0514.93  
Joseph C. Roetheli (202) 401-4860  
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

## **AARC CENTER ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

WASHINGTON, June 24--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization (AARC) Center is looking for more projects to fund that will expand industrial and commercial uses of agricultural and forest products.

The AARC Center issued its first request for project proposals in August 1992 (USDA News Release No 0770.92). Board Chairman Martin Andreas said the Center is now finalizing agreements for proposals received from that request and will announce them soon.

"We know many more excellent new product ideas exist and we look forward to receiving them," Andreas said. The amount to be invested in these new proposals depends on what Congress appropriates for the Center in F.Y. 1994, he said. The F.Y. budget request was for \$20 million.

To qualify for assistance from the AARC Center, an applicant must use a traditional or new crop, or forestry, or animal by-product material to produce an industrial (non-food, non-feed, non-traditional fiber) product. Examples include composite building materials made of soybean meal and used newsprint, biofuels, biodegradable lubricants, intermediate chemicals, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, paints and coatings, degradable polymers, insulation, specialty furniture components, and many others.

The focus of the AARC Center, established by the 1990 Farm Bill, is to bring new industrial products using agricultural materials into the marketplace. "This increases markets for farmers," Andreas said. "Also, "many of these products have environmental or conservation benefits, especially when they create demand for a diversity of crops."

Paul O'Connell, AARC Center Director, said, "Commercializing these types of products relies heavily on expertise from chemists, biochemists, biologists, and engineers, as well as a strong business and management input. The AARC Center encourages proposals from organizations and individuals both outside and within traditional agriculture.

Proposals are due on Aug. 31. To obtain more information on submitting a proposal or a brief pre-proposal, send a request for an RFP packet by fax to: (202) 401-6068; or write to: AARC Center, Cotton Annex Bldg, 2nd Floor Mez, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-0400.



Release No. 0515.93  
Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113  
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

## **MICHIGAN FIRM RECALLS CHICKEN PATTIES FROM SAVE-A-LOT STORES IN 21 STATES**

WASHINGTON, June 24--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that Wolverine Packing Company, a Detroit, Mich., food-processing firm, is voluntarily recalling about 17,000 packages of its "1st Star Brand Chicken Grill'ems, Chicken Breast Patties," because some of the packages may contain small pieces of glass. The product is sold only in Save-A-Lot stores.

All 12-ounce packages (containing four 3-ounce servings) of the product with the code "3042" stamped on the side of the package by the ingredient statement are being recalled. "P-2574B" appears inside the USDA inspection seal on the label. No other product is affected by the recall.

The products were distributed to Save-A-Lot stores in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

"We urge consumers who may have purchased the suspect product to return it unopened to the place of purchase," said Dr. H. Russell Cross, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The company began recalling the product after three consumers complained about finding glass in the product.

Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. This number also provides access to a telecommunications device for the deaf and the hearing impaired.



Release No. 0519.93

Phil Shanholtzer (202) 305-2286

Diane O'Connor (202) 720-2168

#### **APRIL FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION REMAINS NEAR RECORD LEVELS**

WASHINGTON, June 25--Participation in the Food Stamp Program dropped slightly in April, from a record 27.38 million people to 27.35 million, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

"While it is always encouraging to see participation drop, the fact remains that more than one out of 10 Americans is still on food stamps," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. "While our economy shows some optimistic signs, we have a long way to go."

The April participation represents a decrease of only about 30,000 people from the March all-time high.

Espy said it is not uncommon for food stamp participation to drop slightly in the spring and summer as people find seasonal employment, and that the figures often go back up during the fall and winter.

"It is important to look at the long-term trend," Espy said. "Almost one and a half million more people received food stamps in April 1993 than in April 1992. We have added almost eight million people to the food stamp rolls since the beginning of 1990."

Last week, Espy and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas held the largest federal forum on hunger since the 1960s. More than 70 panelists from around the country gathered to help develop an aggressive anti-hunger agenda to better reach the needy and promote independence rather than dependence on the system.

"We have slowly but surely built a framework of safety nets to serve those most in need of assistance," said Haas. "But poverty persists and there are new issues we must confront."

Many speakers at the forum emphasized the need for Congress to enact the Mickey Leland Hunger Relief Act as a first step toward dealing with recognized shortcomings in the current food stamp program. "Today's participation figures underscore the need for this legislation," Haas said.



Release No. 0520.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

#### **SECRETARY ESPY TO VISIT MIDWESTERN STATES TO TOUR RAIN-SOAKED FARMS**

WASHINGTON, June 25--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that he will travel to several midwestern states to tour agricultural lands inundated by recent rains.

Espy said that the tour, which will take place next week in the states of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, would give him the opportunity to see the agricultural impact of the excessive rains firsthand.

"Producers in at least a half dozen states are beginning to face severe difficulties because they are not able to get into the fields to plant. I want to go and see the extent of the excessive rains that have occurred in the Midwest, talk to the farmers about the problems that they are facing, and begin formulating the Clinton Administration's response to the needs of these producers," Espy said.

Further details of the tour will be released next week.





## Program Announcements-

Release No. 0509.93

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

### USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, June 22--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
	.....\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 29 at 3 p.m. EDT.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0517.93

Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-6734

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

### USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, June 24--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. July 1. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 25 through midnight Thursday, July 1.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.35 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:



I.	Calculated AWP .....	43.47 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate .....	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate .....	83
II.	USNE Price .....	58.50 cents per pound
	NE Price .....	-57.15 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed .....	1.35 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

#### Adjusted World Price

NE Price .....	57.15
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	1.55
Average U.S. location .....	0.31
Sum of Adjustments .....	- 13.68
Calculated AWP .....	43.47
Further AWP adjustment .....	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	43.47 cents/lb.

#### Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price .....	57.15
NE Coarse Count Price .....	- 52.62
	4.53
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton .....	- 3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0.58 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.37 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price .....	NE Current Price .....	USNE Current Minus NE Current .....	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/ .....
			cents per pound		
1	June 3, 1993	62.19	59.74	2.45	1.20
2	June 10, 1993	61.50	59.36	2.14	0.89
3	June 17, 1993	60.30	58.37	1.93	0.68
4	June 24, 1993	59.55	57.93	1.62	0.37

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

If the USNE forward price exceeds the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP does not exceed 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period, a forward user marketing certificate will be issued. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. The USNE forward price has not exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks; therefore, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE Forward Minus NE Forward	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		.....	cents per pound	.....	
1	June 3, 1993	59.88	58.63	1.25	0 2/
2	June 10, 1993	59.80	58.42	1.38	0 2/
3	June 17, 1993	59.10	57.70	1.40	0 2/
4	June 24, 1993	58.50	57.15	1.35	0 2/

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, July 1.



## Media Advisory-

Release No. 0508.93  
Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

### AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ESPY TO ADDRESS FLORIDA HUNGER SYMPOSIUM

WASHINGTON, June 22--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy will deliver the keynote address to the Florida Food Link Symposium at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, at the Grenelefe Conference Center, 3200 State Road 546, in Haines City, Fla.

The June 23-24 state-wide hunger symposium, sponsored by the Florida Association for Community Action, will focus on ways state agencies and organizations can cooperate to improve the delivery of food assistance to the needy.

As secretary of agriculture, Espy oversees several federal food assistance operations, including the Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Espy worked on hunger issues as a member of the House of Representatives. He served on the House Agriculture and Budget Committees, and chaired the Domestic Hunger Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger. His legislative proposals included changing federal rules to allow acceptance of food stamps at farmers' markets, providing outreach programs for limited-resource farmers, and cutting USDA red tape in food assistance programs.

Espy has said that the United States "needs a USDA which helps lead the way, and which doesn't stand in the way" of delivering effective food assistance to needy Americans.

Last week, Espy held a National Hunger Forum in Washington, D.C., with over 70 panelists from around the country. He is a strong supporter of the Mickey Leland Hunger Prevention Act, which would reform the Food Stamp Program by improving benefits and making changes to promote independence rather than dependence on the system.







